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FINAL MOMENTS

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MUNICIPAL REVENUE

But Bowman left out of big city mayors' letter to feds

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Mayors from Canada's largest cities signed their names to an open letter calling for Ottawa to give local governments more revenue-raising powers — but one signature was clearly absent.

That was Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman's, who explained he simply wasn't asked to join the campaign. However, he didn't rule out the issues at hand.

"These are Canada's largest cities," Bowman said after the city passed its 2017 budgets Tuesday.

"We weren't asked. I have been working with them to move forward with Canada's big cities more broadly on this issue, and so we've certainly had dialogue and input."

The mayors of Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver all signed the letter, which urges the federal government to introduce a new fiscal framework that reduces their cities' reliance on property taxes and provides more funding for local infrastructure, such as transit and housing.

"Great responsibilities require great powers, and Canadian cities are at the forefront of a growing housing crisis, overwhelmed transit systems, alarming fentanyl abuse, mental-health issues and the growing divide between haves and have-nots," it reads.

Bowman has repeatedly called on the province and federal government to change the funding model for the city, slamming the property-tax system as an outdated tool to support growth.

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Task force calls for national age for legalized recreational pot smoking to be set at 18. **Canada**

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Winnipeg a leader in reconciliation: report

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
For Metro | Winnipeg

Reconciliation is more than just a buzzword in Winnipeg.

That's according to a new Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report, released Tuesday, which shows that the city's inner core is setting an example for the rest of Canada on how to promote reconciliation with indigenous people.

"What we uncovered was that reconciliation is not new here. It's been done here for up to five decades within the collective memory and even probably beyond," said Niigaan Sinclair, lead author of the 12th annual State of the Inner City report and acting head of the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba.

The report commends grassroots groups for actively implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action, released about a year and a half ago. Researchers also used the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 10 principles as a barometer to measure how Winnipeg groups are doing. The CCPA spotlighted dozens of groups, including Aboriginal Youth Opportunities, the Bear Clan Patrol and 13 Fires, for fighting systemic racism and promoting community building.

And the vast majority of reconciliation work that's being done in Winnipeg's inner city is executed by volunteers, Sinclair said.

"The true challenge is can reconciliation be something that Canada engages with and puts support behind? We don't need to create multi-million dollar foundations and organizations led by rock stars. We don't need to do that," he said.

WINTER ACTIVITY

Great Ice Show won't be returning to city

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

If you were hoping to slide down a giant LED ice slide and grab a drink at a nearby ice bar this winter, think again.

The Great Ice Show will not be returning to Winnipeg, according to one organizer.

Paul Kostas is one of the partners that brought the three-acre park of ice sculptures at The Forks to the city for the first time last season.

"We lost money and that's that," he said in an interview Monday. He declined to say exactly how much was lost.

Although he did not want to point fingers, Kostas said attempts to drum up financial support for the event had been made, but were unsuccessful.

'It broke our hearts'

ANIMAL RESCUE

But near-frozen puppy gets care and a second chance

An organization that rescues dogs says the body heat of a five-week-old puppy found near-frozen in a northern Manitoba community was so low it didn't even register on a thermometer.

"I've never seen a puppy recover after being that cold," said Jessica Hansen, executive director of Manitoba Underdogs Rescue.

"She was in really rough shape and it's a miracle she's alive."

The pup, a husky-shepherd mix, has been named Demi and is being treated at the Winnipeg Animal Emergency Hospital.

Demi was found on Sunday by a resident of the northern community and surrendered to the rescue's volunteers, who happened to be feeding and picking up stray animals in the area.

Underdogs Rescue's policy is not to name communities where the group works.

Demi was rushed nearly three hours to Winnipeg for emergency veterinary care.

"I thought she was going to pass away in our arms on the drive to Winnipeg. She was nearly dead," Hansen said.

"We snuggled her into the chest of one of our volunteers, wrapped her in heat packs and put some corn syrup on her gums to try and increase her energy levels. She was just so tiny and helpless.

The body heat of Demi, a five-week-old puppy found near frozen in northern Manitoba, was so low it didn't even register on a thermometer. MANITOBA UNDERDOGS RESCUE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It broke our hearts."

The tiny dog is in an incubator being monitored and kept warm, and has tested negative for the parvovirus.

"We hope her health problems will end there, but we honesty aren't sure," Hansen said.

The rescue group has brought in several other dogs in recent days and "there are more out there in need of homes."

"We'd like to be able to bring more into care as temperatures drop and their situation gets even scarier, but that depends on our finances," Hansen said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"I thought she was going to pass away in our arms on the drive to Winnipeg.**
> Jessica Hansen

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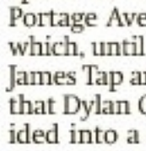
So easy to back this Underdog

ENTERTAINMENT

New sports 'barcade' has something for everybody



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Everybody loves an underdog story. So when it comes to the latest bar to open in a familiar spot in Winnipeg — a sports bar-arcade hybrid called Underdogs — its new ownership is hoping everyone loves what they've done with the place.

"We tried as hard as we could not to be one-dimensional," said Underdogs co-owner Marc Priestly. "We are a sports bar, a restaurant, a gaming room, a nightclub — we've got a little bit of everything so we can kind of cater to anybody."

> **We are a sports bar, a restaurant, a gaming room, a nightclub.**
> Underdogs co-owner Marc Priestly

The 7,500 square foot space at 2609 Portage Ave. — which, until recently was the St. James Tap and Grill, and before that Dylan O'Connors — is divided into a game room, main sports bar space, different-sized event rooms for private bookings and a stage for DJs or bands.

The place is filled with televisions and has a huge projector screen for big games in one of the event rooms. Priestly explained the name comes from the common sentiment shared among Winnipeggers that their hometown is "a bit of an underdog city." But the innovation in Underdogs both challenges and embraces that reputation.

The new bar's core concept might be unfamiliar to people, with its Chuck-E-Cheese-meets-sports-bar vibe, but the goal, Priestly said, is to be a reliable, welcoming "neighbourhood pub where everyone can come to enjoy themselves."

Priestly said the idea to give patrons all kinds of activity options came from his own typical night-out experience.

"One thing I found when I went out with friends after you've had a nibble or a drink you can feel a little restless and want to do something besides sit at the table," he said. "(For that) we've got the game room — basketball, Skee ball, pinball, Golden Tee, different arcade stuff — it gives you a different dynamic."

Not willing to be "one-dimensional," and again wanting to cater to locals, the Underdogs menu is another feature Priestly expects to be a big draw.

"One thing flying out of the kitchen is our perogy nachos," he said. "Essentially like nachos but instead of chips it's perogies.

"We've tried to put a lot of local aspects into the menu. It's comfort food done well with a bit of a twist."

Priestly also said he knows the location's history for turnover, but in his mind it's "not totally cursed," and he has faith in his fellow co-owners, who independently have stakes in other local businesses including Nuburger, Carbone, the Green Room and Union Sound Hall.

"We've got restaurant guys, nightclub guys, we're quite a diverse team pulling it all together," he said. "We always sort of talked joking, 'Hey, maybe one day we'll open a place together,' then this location came up and we said, 'Let's give it a shot.'"

Priestly said he believes in his friends, their shared new venture, and he hopes everyone will rally behind the Underdogs.

Underdogs co-owner Marc Priestley, above, in his Winnipeg establishment. Below, two customers play some ping pong.
BOTH IMAGES LYLE STAFFORD/METRO

SHIPPING

Nationalize port of Churchill, MP urges

A New Democrat MP is urging the federal government to nationalize the port of Churchill, Man., which has been closed since last summer.

Niki Ashton says the port is a strategic asset that shouldn't be at the mercy of a private American corporation.

Ashton's call for action follows the decision last summer by Denver-based Omnitrax not to open the seasonal port this year, due to low demand.

The company has also scaled back freight service on the Hudson Bay Railway line — the only land link to Churchill and nearby communities.

Wheat shipments through the port have fallen dramatically in recent years, with only six ships loaded during the 2015 season.

Ashton says the solution would be for the federal government to take back the facility and establish a port authority to run it.

The government has already announced $4.6 million from Western Economic Diversification Canada for development in the Churchill region, where the port closure threw 60 people out of work in a town of 800.

That money isn't enough, Ashton said Tuesday during a Parliament Hill news conference alongside union officials and laid-off workers.

"We need the federal government to nationalize the port of Churchill, to move to a port authority model where northerners, where First Nations, where agricultural producers are going to make the best decisions for the future of the port," she said.

"Time is running out. We need to make sure that there's a 2017 shipping season. We need to make sure that there is a future for the port of Churchill."

Omnitrax bought the port and railway from the federal government in 1997, under a Liberal administration.

Ashton says the new Liberal government needs to help solve a problem its predecessor started.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba Hydro – your energy expert

Home humidity is a balancing act...

Controlling humidity in your home in winter can be a real balancing act. The ideal relative humidity for occupants, wood floors and furniture is 40-50 per cent. However, when temperatures dip below -20 C, even the best, modern windows can experience condensation and icing at humidity levels above 30 per cent. If your blinds or curtains are closed, condensation can occur at even lower humidity levels.

For a healthier home environment in Manitoba, it's necessary to manage your home humidity levels within the lower range of 20-35 per cent during the coldest winter weather. The level you are able to maintain will depend on the quality of windows, insulation and air leakage rates in the home. Ventilation also plays an important role.

Whether your home is too humid or too dry, consider the following information.

To reduce humidity:

- turn humidifiers down or off
- don't hang wet clothes indoors to dry
- always vent the clothes dryer to the outdoors
- run the exhaust fan while in the shower or bath and run it for an extra 10-15 minutes afterwards. Better yet, install a timer switch to do this automatically
- exhaust fans should vent to the outdoors (make sure the vent hood is not blocked)
- if you don't have exhaust fans, consider installing them or a heat recovery ventilator (HRV).

To raise the humidity:

- seal and weather-strip your home to reduce air leakage. Cold, dry air from outdoors soaks up humidity. Reducing drafts also improves comfort, lowers your heating bills and may even reduce or eliminate the need for a humidifier
- don't over-ventilate. Operating an exhaust fan or HRV more than necessary can dry out your home and increase your energy costs
- use a portable humidifier or furnace humidifier (on a forced-air heating system) **only** after all sealing and weather stripping attempts have been made.

Was your home built after 2011, or do you have an HRV installed in your home? See if you qualify for a $150 rebate to install an advanced heat recovery ventilator (HRV) control.

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Some councillors got **riled up about roadwork** at Winnipeg City Hall. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

Squabbles over roads

MUNICIPAL POLITICS

Council talks about repair budget source of tension

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

The holidays may be right around the corner, but there was little peace on earth at Winnipeg City Hall on Tuesday morning.

Councillors successfully voted 11-5 for next year's budget on Tuesday, but not without some ugly changes, a shouting match between councillors, cries of "shame on you" ringing out from the gallery and renewed calls for more transparency.

The sticking point at the centre of it all: how much the city should spend on fixing up Winnipeg's local and regional roads.

The $105-million roads budget has been a source of tension recently, with the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association launching radio attack ads against the plan and councillors taking out ads slamming the funds.

At the meeting, it all boiled over.

Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce president Loren Remillard and Manitoba Heavy Construction Association head Chris Lorenc raised concerns about what Remillard describes as a "displacement" of funds that are supposed to pay for roadwork.

The pair of industry reps argued the public is owed a clear explanation as to why council diverged from the 2015 six-year forecast, which lays out the amount of money the city is supposed to spend on roadwork.

Coun. Russ Wyatt also said the 2017 budget forgoes road repairs in favour of balancing the city's books.

Coun. Marty Morantz accused Wyatt and Lorenc of co-ordinating a lobbyist campaign against city hall. That lead to a shouting match between Morantz and Wyatt over the allegation.

Two cries of "shame on you" also echoed from council floor after one of Lorenc's exchanges with Morantz.

"It's absolutely uncalled for," Lorenc told reporters afterward.

"There is no basis in fact for it, and I'm very disappointed that an individual of that councillor's caliber would actually lower himself to that level."

Back in 2013 and 2014, council set up two reserve funds to cover the costs of repairing local and regional roads. The funds were to be raised through an annual two-per-cent property-tax hike.

But next year's budget shows roadwork spending will stay the same as in 2016 — even though a tax hike will generate $10.6 million.

Morantz had also pressed Remillard to name the specific funding sources for the road reserves.

"Asking me to have definitive numbers when the 16 of them can't agree upon which numbers are actually the numbers, I find a little bit hypocritical," Remillard said.

Eighteen-year-olds could legally buy pot

POLICY

Federal task force releases report planned on legalization

The federal government will bring in legislation next spring that could see storefront or mail-order sales of legal recreational pot to Canadians aged 18 and older if Ottawa adopts recommendations in a new report.

The report by a task force assigned to study how the Liberals could implement their campaign promise to legalize pot was released Tuesday, and said three provinces, including Ontario, may want to set the legal marijuana consumption age higher to match their minimal drinking age of 19.

Overall, the task force chair said regulation of many aspects of a new legalized marijuana market should be left up to provinces working with municipalities. It called for strict rules on personal possession, sale and distribution, along with massive investments on public awareness campaigns, research into the medical effects of marijuana, and on boosting law enforcement's ability to police drug-impaired drivers.

Anne McLellan, chair of the federal task force that released 80 recommendations Tuesday, said the panel "took into account" advice from the Canadian Medical Association which called for a minimum age of 21 years old for legal consumption based on fears of damage to teenage brains.

But McLellan said the report opted for a younger age to avoid the criminalization of the highest group of pot users — youth aged 18-25.

In an interview, McLellan said: "18 is the age at which young adults, and I call them deliberately young adults, are expected to be able to make decisions."

The 106-page report did not say at what price it expects organized crime or black market sellers would be squeezed out of the game, saying those questions will be up to provinces and commercial players in the marketplace. Generally its researchers assumed that pot now sells for about $8 a gram in the illegal market. The task force did not project how much revenue governments could make once they begin collecting taxes on legal pot sales.

But it made specific recommendations that individuals be allowed to legally possess 30 grams for personal use, or grow 4 plants in their own home, without having to face criminal sanction. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

People take selfies near Niagara Falls, newly illuminated by LED lights. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Niagara Falls lights up

The nightly spectacle of Niagara Falls lit up after dark just got more spectacular.

A $3-million upgrade saw the installation of 1,400 new high-tech lights called luminaires that beam brighter and more vivid rainbows of light from Canada onto the famous waterfalls.

Mixed together, the separate red, green, blue and white LED units can illuminate the waterfalls against the night sky in endless combinations that range from subtle hues to deeply saturated colours.

Perched on the upper level of an 1899 building known as "Illumination Tower," the high-intensity system unveiled Dec. 1 replaced a bank of 21 spotlights, each 30 inches in diameter, that were equipped with coloured gels.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alan Thicke dead at 69

GETTY IMAGES

Canadian TV icon Alan Thicke has died, his publicist confirmed Tuesday. He was 69.

According to reports, Thicke died of a heart attack Tuesday afternoon. He was most famous for his role as Jason Seaver, the father from '80s sitcom Growing Pains. He had been recently back on the screen as part of the Netflix reboot Fuller House.

Born in Kirkland Lake, Ont., Thicke was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame in 2013. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Goodbye from Aleppo

Aleppo's doctors, activists and residents bid emotional goodbyes in online videos and social media posts. They wanted to have the final say in the merciless civil war.

MONTHER ETAKY: This planet doesn't want people to live as free or to live as humans.

ABDULKAFI ALHAMDO: At least we know that we were a free people...We didn't want anything else but freedom.

BANA ALABED: My name is Bana, I'm 7 years old. I am talking to the world now live from East #Aleppo. This is my last moment to either live or die.

LINA SHAMY: Every bomb is a new massacre. Save Aleppo, save humanity.

First came the distress calls from doctors in underground shelters and morgues. Then residents under relentless bombardment in the few remaining blocks under rebel control in Aleppo began posting emotional goodbyes on social media and in widely circulated messages.

They wanted to have the final say in the merciless civil war.

"There is a problem with this planet," said Monther Etaky, a 28-year old graphic designer. "This planet doesn't want people to live as free or to live as humans."

The world's view of the Syria conflict has been largely driven by YouTube, Twitter and Facebook — making it one of the world's most documented wars through amateur videos and coverage. This has given the activists a major role in chronicling the war, and in lobbying for the world's response.

Nearly six years into the conflict, they complained the world has been looking the other way.

"Why is this silence? People are being eliminated," tweeted Abdulkafi Alhamdo, an English teacher who has been a vocal critic of President Bashar Assad's government. Then, he wrote: "The last (message). Thanks for Everything. We shared many moments. The last tweets were from an emotional father. Farewell #Aleppo."

A local aid worker who gave only his first name, Omar, sent an emotional recorded message that was widely shared on Whatsapp.

"The government forces are at the end of the street. Forgive us," he said in issuing a tormented apology for failing to protect the rebel enclave, once seen as the jewel of Syria's rebellion.

After four years of holding onto nearly half of what was once Syria's largest city and commercial centre, thousands of residents of rebel-held Aleppo had been cornered in a one-square-mile sliver of land for days as Syrian government troops, backed by Russia, resisted calls for a ceasefire, pushing into the territory as rebel defences crumbled.

Etaky said the fast buckling of rebel defences shocked him at first.

After months of siege imposed since July the rebels had no more power to go on, he said. With their families trapped in the city with them, many fighters left the front lines to tend to their relatives' safety.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A member of the Syrian government forces stands in a severely damaged street in eastern Aleppo Tuesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Rebels to evacuate in surrender deal

Syrian rebels reached a ceasefire deal to evacuate from eastern Aleppo in an effective surrender on Tuesday, as Russia declared all military action had stopped and the Syrian government had assumed control of the former rebel enclave.

The dramatic developments, which appeared to restore the remainder of what was once Syria's largest city to President Bashar Assad's forces after months of heavy fighting and a crippling siege, followed reports of mass killings by government forces closing in on the final few blocks still held by the rebels.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the emergency meeting he had received "credible reports" of civilians killed by bombing and summary executions by pro-government forces.

As word spread of the deal, celebrations broke out in the government-controlled western sector of Aleppo, with convoys of cars driving around honking their cars and waving flags.

The agreement Tuesday came after world leaders and aid agencies issued dramatic appeals on behalf of trapped residents.

That and other reports of mass killings, which could not be independently confirmed, reinforced fears of atrocities in the final hours of the battle for the city.

The UN human rights office said it had received reports of pro-government forces killing at least 82 civilians in the rapidly-shrinking rebel enclave, including 11 women and 13 children.

A spokesman said the reports described pro-government forces entering homes and killing civilians "on the spot."

Rami Abdurrahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said hundreds of bodies were still under the rubble.

"To the Assad regime, Russia and Iran — three member states behind the conquest of and carnage in Aleppo — you bear responsibility for these atrocities," said U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power.

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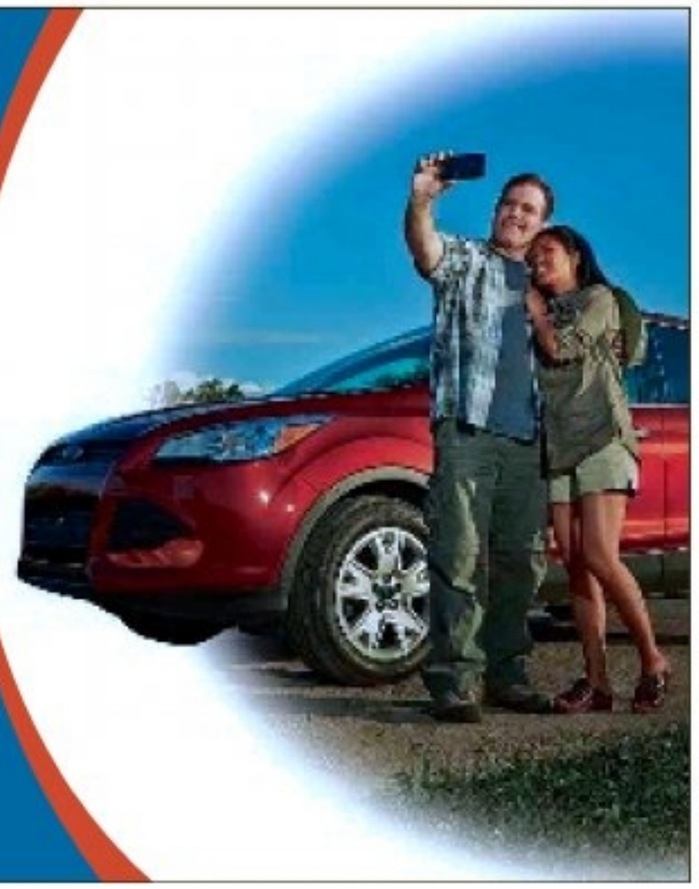

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PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

JESSICA ALLEN ON A CELLULOID OBAMA

The PM could not have been surprised that he was not queried about what he believes were his biggest successes during his first full year.

This year has seen no shortage of biopics. Films like Lion, Loving, and Denial, have introduced some of us to heroes whose names and stories we didn't know. Others have tackled the more familiar lives of those who go by a singular moniker — think Miles, Nina, Jackie, Sully, and Snowden.

And then there's Barry, who now goes by Barack. POTUS is the subject of not one but two films released this year, both of which take place before he was POTUS, and one of which, Barry, will be released on Netflix on December 16. Set in 1981, when Obama transfers to Columbia as a junior majoring in political science and English, the film delighted me, along with an audience of 1,200, when it premiered in September during TIFF.

In our house, biopics are a hot topic. Simon refuses to watch them, but I love them. The irony is that we probably love and hate them for the same reasons; the depiction of a life, be it a single defining moment or a broad sweeping cradle-to-grave affair requires reducing, like a good spaghetti sauce. But Simon has little faith in the genre, so I wasn't surprised that he's expressed no interest in watching Barry.

The thing is, it's a nice movie. And as the real Obama prepares to hand the keys to the kingdom over to the man who led the public crusade for the release of his birth certificate, the last eight years are starting to seem really nice, too.

Under his watch, same-sex couples gained the right to marry, the unemployment rate fell, as did the number of uninsured adults, and Osama Bin Laden was killed. But not everything has come up roses: "Under an African American president, we've grown used to the fact that white police officers kill unarmed black civilians," journalist Stephen Marche noted almost a year ago in the Los Angeles Times. "Under a liberal president, the rich have gotten richer and the middle class has stagnated."

Yet, as Marche wrote a few weeks ago, in a piece called "The Obama Years" for the Los Angeles Review of Books, "I doubt anyone will be able to capture his saturation of our imagination."

He may be right. But Barry manages to capture something beautiful: meditative moments are weaved throughout the narrative that illuminate the life of a man trying to figure out who he is, where he comes from, and where he is going. Even scenes that foreshadow greatness aren't hamfisted: when Obama meets the parents of a white woman he's dating, he slowly ascends stairs whose walls are lined with gilded-frame oil paintings of past presidents. When he picks up books from a street vendor, one is Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man, which he still cites as a favourite. Another is by W.E.B. Du Bois, the first African American to get a doctorate from Harvard, where Obama went to law school after his time at Columbia.

After the credits rolled and the filmmakers and cast walked on stage, the audience waited for Devon Terrell, the actor who had taken on the enormous task of portraying the president of the United States for his first feature film, to speak. And as he told us how he wanted to avoid caricature (he did), how he learned to write and play basketball left-handed, how he had an emotional connection to Obama because change the name and it could've been about him, we rustled in our seats with surprise upon hearing his voice. "I'm Australian by the way," he said.

"We really wanted to make sure that you could relate to Barry," director Vikram Gandhi said, "that you can glean something about race in America, and that even if you forgot who he would become, you'd still believe he would become someone significant."

But it was sometimes difficult to lose sight that Barry would become Barack, especially during a love scene that left a row of women directly behind me whooping and hollering, "Michelle isn't gonna like that," one of them said, assuming that she'll see it.

And maybe the Obamas will "Netflix and chill." Biopics are often as much about the past as they are about the present and even the future, even though the foreshadowing is not always intentional. When Barry's filmmakers, for example, conceived of the project and saw it through, they must've felt celebratory. Even back in September there were was a sense of elation in the audience. But now, the moment portrayed, and the last eight years, are less celebration than elegy.

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'Woke' is hereby put on ice until further notice

Vicky Mochama
Metro

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to say goodbye to "woke."

I'm not putting woke away out of meanness; I just want to save it from the same fate as "shade." A phrase from drag culture's rich lexicon, the mainstreaming of "shade" enriched the cultural landscape. At first. "Shade" now has a thriving career in being misapplied by news outlets desperate for millennial clicks. (The misuse of shade is being expertly adjudicated with tireless, if vexed, commitment by Jezebel's Kara Brown.)

Woke must be buried to save us from ourselves. We clearly don't know what words mean anymore.

Woke had a good run. Erykah Badu sang it in her 2008 song "Master Teacher," which birthed the current popular meaning of the word.

Woke had a quiet adolescence in being used mainly by Badu fans and tired people. But always, for Black people, wokeness meant staying alert to the injustices levelled at our bodies and communities, and continuing to resist the systems that perpetrated those injustices. After the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin and the exoneration of his murderer, Black people on Twitter reminded each other to #staywoke.

Recently, former Fox News screaming chalkboard Glenn Beck has been described as woke. Writing for the New York Times he said, black lives matter, possibly, especially for the couple of black people he has personally met. (I'm paraphrasing but only to save you the time.)

This belief in the partial humanity of black people, added to a New Yorker interview in which he admitted to being influenced by Barack Obama, made some people believe that Beck was woke now. He is not.

Beck's media platform, The Blaze, continues to peddle the same shrill toxicity that his Fox News show once amplified. Tomi Lahren, a sort of Ann Coulter but blonder and less overtly racist, hosts a show for The Blaze. If Glenn Beck is woke, his work manages not to be.

Wokeness isn't be a badge to be shined; for black people, it's a mode of survival. And for white populations, it must be matched with a desire and actions to protect the most vulnerable and marginalized.

As the horrors of the Trump presidency are unveiled, people — by this, I largely mean white people — will awaken to the fact that Muslims and Mexicans are, indeed, human beings. They must not be allowed to claim wokeness. Rather than let it be diluted by mainstream (read: white) culture in the manner of a Disney movie, we must put woke into the vault.

Words lose their impact when they cease to mean anything. In the way that "alt-right" obscures hate, "woke" gives many people more credit than they've earned.

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JOEY'S RESTAURANTS

metro LIFE
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Wonder Woman has been fired from her honorary ambassador job at the U.N. following protests about her suitability as a role model.

Holiday entertaining 911

You did everything right. You kept your guest list tight because you knew a dinner party with more than six people was too much. Then, the calls started. A friend's got a new boyfriend he is dying to introduce you to. Your sister's best friend is in town. And so on. Now your intimate dinner is a group of twelve. Do you panic and cancel the whole thing? Nah, you've got this. Or rather, we've got this. A smart menu and a few iron-clad rules and you'll be the host with the most.

CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH

A secret weapon to leave them thinking you cooked all day

Roast Pork Tenderloin with Apples and Sweet Potato

Pork loin cooks quickly and takes on flavours beautifully. As your first guests arrive, pop it in the oven and by the time you're done with hors d'ouevres, it will be ready.

Ingredients:
- 1.25 – 1.5 kg pork loin
- 3 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 3 Tbsp maple syrup
- 2 tsp thyme, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 large firm-fleshed apple, peeled, cored and chopped into 1/2 inch wedges
- 1 smallish sweet potato, peeled and chopped into 1/2 inch discs
- 1 onion, peeled and sliced into 1/4 inch rounds
- salt and pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. In a small bowl, mix together 1 Tbsp dijon, 1 Tbsp maple syrup, 1 Tbsp vinegar. Assemble your fruit and veggies in two rows in a roasting dish. Brush the marinade over everything. Pop them in a hot oven for about 25 minutes.

2. In that same little bowl you're going to mix up 2 Tbsp of Dijon, 2 Tbsp syrup, 1 Tbsp vinegar and the thyme. Season your pork loin with a grind of salt and pepper, then brush this marinade all over it. Take the roasting pan out of the oven and place your loin in between the two rows of fruit and veg. You might have to nudge them apart a bit but it's fine if they overlap. Put it all back in the oven for 20 to 25 minutes. You want the internal temperature of pork to be between 140 and 145 degrees.

3. Take everything out and cover with foil and let the meat rest for about 10 minutes. Slice your meat and serve a couple of slices and a scoop of fruit and vegetables on each plate.

ISTOCK IMAGE, FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAAYA VISNYEI

STAY CALM

Sweet Potato Chronicles' three rules to guarantee you make it through with your sanity intact:

Never swim alone
Or host. If you're married, divvy up the tasks with your spouse. If you're single, ask one of your guests to co-host with you. And bring dessert.

Don't make cocktails
It's just too hard when you're dealing with all the food. Serve Prosecco and beer before dinner and wine with dinner.

Set your music and lighting before guests arrive and don't touch them again.
You'll put people on edge if you're jumping up and down all night.

Rope in the eager early arrival for these zesty palate-setters

Pears with Goat Cheese and Cranberries

You know how there is always one person that come too early to the party. Well, this is the easy little assembly job you have them do while you finish getting ready.
Of course, you'll pour them a drink first.

Ingredients:
- 2 pears, cored and cut into two dozen slices
- 1 tablespoon orange or lemon juice
- 1/2 cup goat cheese
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 2 tablespoons pistachio pieces
- 2 tablespoons cranberries

Directions:

1. Core pears and cut into slices. Toss in orange or lemon juice to keep from browning.

2. Mix cheese with honey then spread cheese on widest part of pear slice. Shower cheese with cranberries and some pistachio pieces. Arrange on platter and serve.

Get groundwork in to meet grape expectations

Grape and Parmesan Flatbread Pizza

This sweet and salty bite tastes great warm or at room temperature. Either way, you can prepare your flatbread the night before and have it ready to roll.

Ingredients:
- 2 tbsps olive oil
- 10 to 12 seedless grapes, sliced lengthwise
- 1 cup Parmesan or Fontina cheese, grated
- 2 handfuls of arugula

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 450 degrees. Place your flatbread on a baking sheet. Brush the flat bread with olive oil. Sprinkle the cheese evenly over the flatbread. Top that with a scattering of grapes.

2. Bake for about 5 to 10 minutes until cheese melts and grapes begin to blister.

3. Remove from the oven and top with arugula and sea salt and pepper. Slice into thin pieces.

5 WINES FOR WHATEVER TYPE OF BOSS YOU HAVE

Face it. You can't buy your boss a piece of clothing (too personal), or cologne (too allusive) or a book on how to be a better boss or human being (as tempting as that may be). But you can never go wrong with a bottle of wine. So to help you wrap up your gift game, we've paired five bottles to five breeds of bosses. See if you can find yours on the list.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 Young and restless boss

2015 Big Bill Ridiculously Big Cabernet Sauvignon, Western Cape, South Africa (LCBO 457119, $12.95, in stores only)

If your boss is under 35 and recently discovered the glories of fermented grape juice, thrill him or her with this red — it's a bit of a big deal. Not only does it sport a funky name and cool label, it tastes amazing, with loads of ripe, opulent fruit layered with notes of bonfire, cigar, baking spices and chocolate-covered burnt almond. And the wine is a tribute to a real-life hero, making it a great boss gift. This bottle was made to honour William "Big Bill" Millar, the boxing champ, war hero, rugby captain and first GM of this wine's winery, KWV. A solid gift idea for the millennial boss. **Score: 89+**

2 Praise-happy boss

Santa Margherita Brut Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Veneto, Italy (Vintages Essential 687582, $18.95 reg., $16.95 till Dec. 30)

You know the boss whose eagerness to praise knows no bounds? The one who lives for small successes, publicly applauding everything from big business wins to the most inane ideas. Resist the urge to give him or her a box of shiny stars and instead give something to toast the next achievement. So give a bottle or two of this delicious, dry, pear-and-seaspray-scented Prosecco and be done with it. **Score: 94**

3 The Devil Wears Prada boss

NV Paul Dangin & Fils Brut Cuvee Carte Blanche Champagne, France (Vintages 450460, $51.95, in stores only)

To impress this bejewelled boss, you need something so profoundly stylish that only those in the know would see it for the gem it is. The find? This beautiful Blanc de Blancs Champagne, which Maxim's of Paris has been serving for years (with Maxim's labelling of course). Pierced by a delicate string of tiny, persistent bubbles and brimming with aromas and flavour of the best-ever apple crumble edged with salted nuts, this wine is drop-dead gorgeous. Paul Dangin & Fils also supplies Champagne to the British royal household by appointment from Her Majesty the Queen. **Score: 94**

4 Creative genius boss

2013 Big Smooth Old Vine Zinfandel, California (Vintages 470179, $24.95, in stores only)

If you work for a creative genius, odds are they didn't move up the ranks by MBA skills alone. So give a bottle that's both smart and scrumptious — such as The Big Smooth, which just hit shelves. The leg-lamp label symbolizes the holidays because it's a prop from A Christmas Story; the plum velvet label mirrors the wine's flavour and texture; and the wine's instant appeal, complexity and polished purity of fruit says you know your stuff. Best part? None of this will be lost on the recipient. **Score: 91**

5 Button down boss

2010 Montecillo Rioja Reserva, Rioja, Spain (LCBO 621003, $18.15)

If your boss is the buttoned-down type, s/he no doubt has a built-in, knee-jerk, deeply-ingrained appreciation of the classics. And this traditional Rioja Reserva, with six years of age on it, is sure to please and offers exceptional value for money. It's sleek glossy texture slides across the palate then broadens and deepens almost instantly to reveal rich but bone dry flavours of black cherry and black raspberry edged with vanilla bean, milk chocolate, coffee bean, toasty oak and toffee. A lovely chalky-texture on the finish holds the flavour intact for ages. You'll want to buy one for yourself, too. **Score: 92**

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Jyn's the perfect tonic

INTERVIEW

Felicity Jones latest to prove that Star Wars is no boys club

Star Wars gets a bad rap for being a boys club, and sometimes rightfully so, but the truth of the matter is that women have always been an integral part of George Lucas's world and the franchise's fan base. On screen, the names Leia, Amidala and Rey are as instantly recognizable and known as any others — and none were ever just playing "the girl."

With this now 39-year-old tradition in mind, Rogue One: A Star Wars Story introduces a new heroine to the ranks — Jyn Erso, an abandoned child of war who must decide what she believes in as the world devolves into chaos. Director Gareth Edwards talked about developing the character and settling on the idea that "Jyn isn't just a woman — she's a person."

"I wanted to make a character that I would want to be. Not to fancy her or want to marry her, but want to be her. It was just a cool person," Edwards continued.

He and the team at Lucasfilm settled on English actress Felicity Jones, 33, to play the part. Already an Oscar nominee for her portrayal of Jane Hawking in The Theory of Everything, Jones had been making a name for herself in smaller projects, like the indie romance Like Crazy.

"For years I've been constantly looking for these kinds of parts and these kinds of films and the opportunity to make it on such a large scale was pretty hard to turn down," said Jones, who also appears in the upcoming fantasy tale A Monster Calls and opposite Tom Hanks in Inferno.

Jyn gets the full weight of an origin story in Rogue One, out Friday. Her father, Galen Erso (Mads Mikkelsen), is a scientist who once worked for the Empire, left that life behind and, at the beginning of the film, gets drawn back in to help finish the Death Star — leaving his young daughter behind to fend for herself.

As an adult, she's forced to confront her past in various ways.

"I like her determination," Jones said. "She doesn't let go of something until she succeeds. She is very, very focused and tenacious in the face of when she's set a task."

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story was the kind of large-scale role Felicity Jones couldn't turn down. CONTRIBUTED

And while Jyn is not a princess or a queen or, well, whatever Rey turns out to be, Jones does think she shares similarities with those who came before her.

"They are quite forthright but they are instinctive and they kind of — they don't mess around," Jones said. "She's very true to the other 'Star Wars' heroines in that way." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

The word police play it forward

THE SHOW: Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Season 4, Episode 9 (Fox/City)
THE MOMENT: The reporters' names

Hyperactive cop Jake Peralta (Andy Samberg) and his deadpan captain Ray Holt (Andre Braugher) are watching an unqualified colleague get a commendation because, Peralta says, they "overmined" him — gave him credit he didn't deserve. Holt winces.

"You know I hate when you make up words," he says.

"Are you still mad at me for saying 'snaccident'?" Peralta asks.

"Yes. Very," Holt replies.

Peralta looks around at the crowd of reporters. "Even The Times is here," he says.

"Really? Who'd they send?" Holt asks, then fires off, "Wilson? Palmer? Schneider? Levine? Rogers? Tyler? Baker? Schmidt?"

"Stop saying reporters' names," Peralta says. "How do you know so many names?"

"They're the only real rock stars we have left," Holt says.

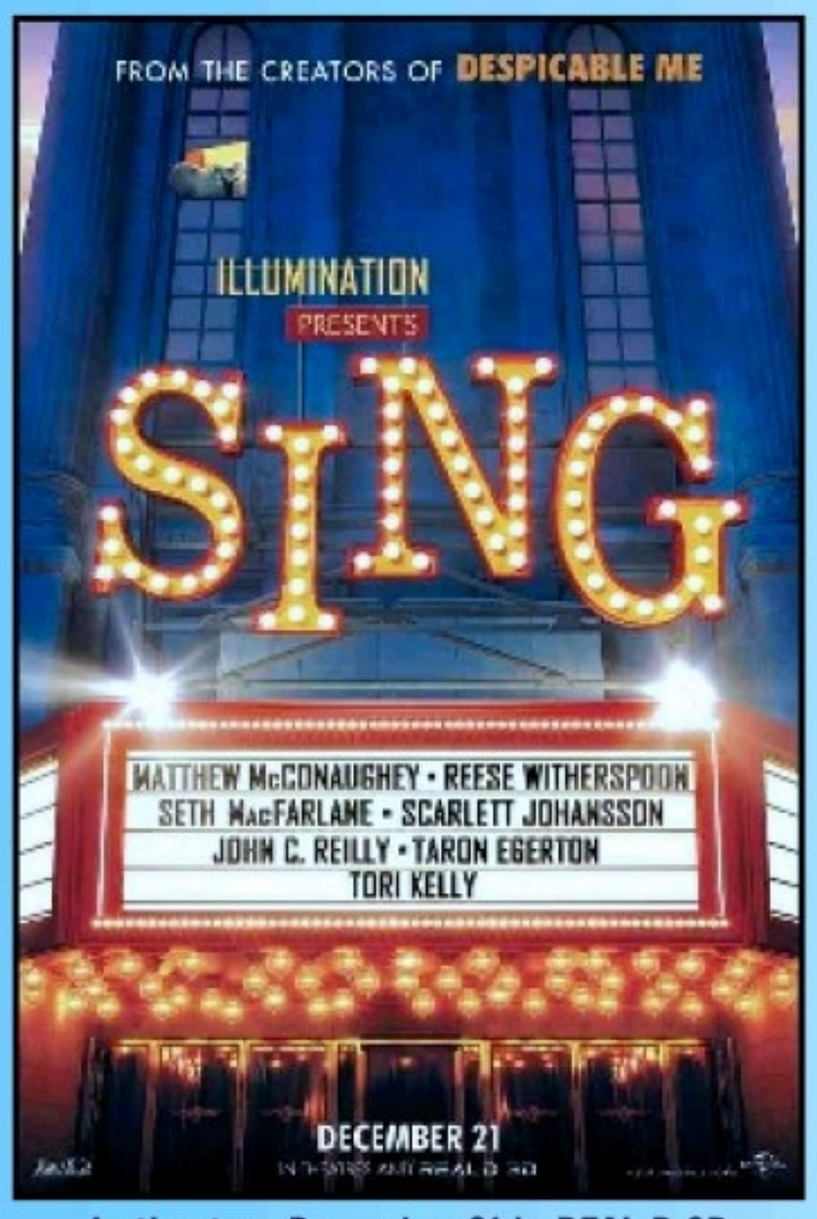
You know you're invested in a TV show when you feel like they're writing jokes just for you. This particular exchange was like an early Christmas present with my name on it.

Not only are Peralta and Holt a 21st-century Laurel and Hardy, with a delivery that's like a well-oiled lock and key. Not only did I laugh a long time at "snaccident."

But then Holt — still perfectly within the established parameters of his character, mind you — tossed that lovely bone to us hangdog newspaperfolk, who are reluctantly watching our lights go out all over North America.

This show is allegedly about cops, but really it's about wordplay. The writers (and their hyperarticulate characters) are drunk on it. And this highly specific shout-out is their toast to reporters, their comrades in type.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



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Ford Performance introduces race-ready Mustang for track only

It'll make you feel like a teen again

REVIEW

WRX STI has high level of driving engagement

Jodi Lai
AutoGuide.com

Subaru people are among the most vocal in the world of automotive fandoms about how much they love their cars.

I've driven practically the whole lineup of Subaru cars, and while they are very decent vehicles, I was never overwhelmingly impressed by them. They were good, but not the best. The Subaru fandom always left me a bit confused, and I assumed they adhered to some sort of cult mentality with their blind faith in a quirky brand.

That's until I finally got to drive the 2017 Subaru WRX STI, which may have made me into a convert.

After spending some quality time with the sedan, I am now able to fully understand the draw of the STI. The beautiful thing about it — and let's not kid ourselves, it's not how it looks — is how it makes you drive like a teenager who has nothing to lose. There's a level of driving engagement that is pretty much unmatched by anything else in its price range. It's impossible not to have fun when driving it, even when you're going slow. Cars like this are really rare, and I was actually really surprised by how giddy I felt driving it.

The one thing that people might not like about this car is that drama. Nobody is going to see this car and assume a responsible adult is driving it. Passersby and law enforcement will notice the huge hood scoop and comically large wing sitting on the trunk, hear the exhaust's aggressive cracks and burbles, and see someone who's looking for trouble. I think that's all part of the fun. Sleepers have their place in the world, but I'm just so entertained by the constant drama surrounding this car.

The fun starts with the powertrain, a turbocharged 2.5-litre boxer four-cylinder and permanent full-time all-wheel drive. The engine puts out 305 hp and 290 pound-feet of torque, and the STI is one of the only cars that is still exclusively available with a manual transmission. This six-speed manual is great to use, with short and precise throws (it's much better than the one in the WRX). The gearing for first and second are a bit short and you'll hit redline in no time, so I wish those gears were a little bit taller, but it's not a deal-breaker.

The brakes are sharp, the clutch is the right weight and feels intuitive to use and the steering is also fantastic, heavy, dialed-in and responsive, and quicker than WRX. Off-the-line acceleration is freaky fast, though not drag strip fast, and max torque is available as early as 2,000 rpm. There is a wee bit of turbo lag, but the car feels light, and like it's always ready to throat-punch you, but is also entirely manageable at the same time.

I finally understand what Subaru fanboys are always going on about.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 SUBARU WRX STI REVIEW

THE BASICS

Engine: 2.5L turbo four-cylinder
Power: 305 hp, 290 lb-ft
Transmission: Six-speed manual
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 13.8 city, 10.2 hwy
Price: Starts at $40,795 (for Sport model)

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Find unique gift items at the MCC furniture thrift store

The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Furniture Thrift Store in Winnipeg has everything a creative gift-giver is looking for to make that one-of-a-kind present for their loved ones this holiday season.

The 10,000 sq. ft. non-profit, volunteer-run shop at 18 Keewatin St. has pieces of gently-used modern, mid-century, vintage, and antique furniture arriving daily, some perfect to give as is, and others great use to use to create unique and personalized presents this Christmas.

"Last year all four of my sons, three of their wives and my three granddaughters, all received a repurposed, upcycled item from the MCC Furniture Thrift Store," says manager Laurie Goetz. "Three of my kids were newer home owners so it was fun to help them fill up their space with unique one-of-a-kind items, all while supporting a worthwhile cause."

For her grandkids, Goetz found children's dressers and frames which she painted with chalk board paint, and some of her boys got vintage cedar chests with personalized stencilling. Goetz says an old iron bed made the perfect gift for her granddaughter after she'd it cleaned up and painted it, and her daughter-in-law who collects teapots had a blast opening a collection of different pieces all of which were found at the MCC Furniture Thrift Store.

"What was good for me was that it was highly affordable, and environmentally friendly," says Goetz. "The kids were ecstatic about their personalized pieces, and I was supporting a worthy cause... a total win for everyone.

"Our generous donors can qualify for a tax donation receipt, and one-hundred per cent of our net proceeds help those less fortunate in developing countries all over the world. Who could not love that?"

Goetz says the store couldn't run without the support of its more than 55 volunteers, who range in age from 14 to 85, and come from all different backgrounds, cultures, and faiths.

"In spite of our unique differences, we all share a common passion and purpose for this place and the mission statement... where every purchase is a gift to the world."

Go to mccmanitoba.ca to learn more about everything MCC is doing around the world.

This old sewing cabinet from MCCFTS was upcycled and given as a gift to a music teacher.
CONTRIBUTED

Gift giving with a purpose.

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In North Kanem, Chad, an MCC-supported school brings new opportunity to children such as Om Aboa, from left, Gumuri Mahamat and Omi Haki.

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metro SPORTS

"Poopfest. It's terrible": Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman is tired of Thursday night games

Pats stand by their rookies

NFL

Mitchell a trusty target for Brady, Jones struggling

Under Bill Belichick, the Patriots have become masters at culling more diamonds than duds from the NFL draft.

This summer was no exception despite New England drafting without a first-round pick as part of its "Deflategate" punishment.

New England picked Alabama cornerback and punt returner Cyrus Jones in the second round. Then, a few rounds later they went with another Southeastern Conference-tested prospect, Georgia receiver Malcolm Mitchell.

Both are having memorable seasons as the Patriots wind toward the playoffs following a 30-23 win over the Ravens Monday night. But only Mitchell is producing the kind of memories worth savouring.

Mitchell has become a reliable target for Tom Brady, picking up the slack nicely for receiver Danny Amendola, who missed his first game of the season with an ankle injury. Mitchell had four catches for 41 yards, including a six-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter that helped put the Patriots up 16-0.

He's posted all four of his touchdowns this season over the past four weeks. Not bad for a player whose season seemed in peril after he suffered a gruesome-looking left elbow injury during New England's pre-season opener.

Patriots wide receiver Malcolm Mitchell comes down with a touchdown catch in front of Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis on Nov. 27 in East Rutherford, N.J. BILL KOSTROUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It says a lot for a rookie to be playing his best in December," Brady said. "It speaks to what he's all about, his mindset, his character, his determination. He's worked his butt off since he got here and he's put himself in a great position. With Danny getting hurt he's gotten more opportunity, and we're going to need it."

Meanwhile, after struggling to hang on to the ball during kick returns, Jones' issues continued against Baltimore. He had his fifth fumble of the season in the second half, setting up Baltimore's first touchdown two plays later.

Jones wore the disappointment on his face as he trudged toward the sideline following the turnover, a reminder that he still needs work on an issue he thought he was past.

> **It says a lot for a rookie to be playing his best in December. It speaks to what he's all about.**
> Tom Brady on receiver Malcolm Mitchell

But coach Bill Belichick put the onus on the entire team to be better at ball security and eliminating mistakes, noting special teams captain Matt Slater's fumbled kickoff and Brady's interception Monday.

"We turned it over three times and all of those players and all of the other players — we've got to do a better job of it," Belichick said. "We've got to coach it better. We've got to handle it better."

Despite his ongoing issues, Jones still has a lot of support in the locker room.

"You're going to have some bad plays out there," safety Devin McCourty said. "You've just got to keep playing. We'll continue to count on him, keep on making sure his confidence stays high."

Mitchell said overcoming mistakes was the biggest key against the Ravens.

"We played as a team, even when we dealt with adversity," he said. "We still stuck together, stayed focused, and did enough to win the game."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AWARDS

Oleksiak wins Lou Marsh Trophy

You could excuse Penny Oleksiak for being a little distracted during her high school law class on Tuesday.

After winning four Olympic medals last summer in Rio, she knew she was in the mix for the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's athlete of the year. Oleksiak's teacher let her check her phone during class and the 16-year-old swimmer eventually got the news she was looking for.

Penny Oleksiak GETTY IMAGES

Oleksiak was named the winner of the Toronto Star award, selected annually by a panel of sports journalists from across the country.

"It was pretty exciting when I found out," Oleksiak said on a conference call. "One of my teachers, Mr. McAlpine, is across the hallway. He was like freaking out after class when he found out. So that was fun."

It was the latest accomplishment in what has been a dream year for the Toronto swimmer.

Oleksiak, who won Olympic gold in the 100-metre freestyle, served as Canadian flag-bearer at the closing ceremony at Maracana Stadium. She added four more medals at the short-course world championship this month in Windsor.

"I think I really learned that I'm stronger than I think," Oleksiak said of her season. "I want to say that just because going into Rio, I definitely had my doubts about myself. I didn't think I'd be able to even get into finals.

"I think I proved to myself that I trained pretty hard last year and that I was able to exceed expectations."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DOPING

Sliding worlds pulled from Russia

Avoiding what would have almost certainly been a widely boycotted world championships, international officials pulled this season's biggest bobsled and skeleton competition out of Russia on Tuesday after a number of sliders said they would not compete in a nation so enveloped in a doping scandal.

The decision was immediately praised by sliders and decried by Russian officials.

> **The process probably isn't going to be clean or pretty, but this needs to be fixed.**
> Skeleton racer Matt Antoine

A new site — Germany and the U.S. are potential hosts — will likely be announced in the coming days. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

B.C.'s Thompson wins gold in women's ski cross

Canada's freestyle ski team continued its early success on the World Cup ski cross circuit this season, as Marielle Thompson won a gold medal and Brady Leman claimed a silver in races on Tuesday.

Thompson, from North Vancouver, B.C., picked up her second gold in three races. She was second out of the gate in the big final but quickly pulled into first and led for the rest of the race. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCCER

Plastic-bag Messi meets the real deal

Nearly a year after an image of him wearing an improvised Lionel Messi jersey made from a plastic bag went viral, Murtaza Ahmadi finally met his idol.

The six-year-old Afghan boy made a special trip to Qatar, where Messi was with his Barcelona teammates to play a friendly match against Al Ahli on Tuesday.

Murtaza walked out onto the field with the five-time world player of the year before the match. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murtaza Ahmadi, 6, poses for a photo with Lionel Messi and Barcelona. GETTY IMAGES

FINALISTS

- Sidney Crosby
- Andre De Grasse
- Brooke Henderson
- Aurelie Rivard
- Milos Raonic
- Derek Drouin

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Comforting Mushroom Cheddar Chowder

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Even mushroom skeptics will love this creamy, vitamin-rich soup.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1 large shallot, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, diced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 lb mushrooms, sliced (we like to use a mix of cremini and portabello)
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 3 Tbsp spelt flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pinch of pepper
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 Tbsp sour cream or Greek yogurt

Directions

1. In large pot over medium heat, melt half the butter. Add shallot, garlic and carrot and sauté until crisp-tender. Pour in half the stock, then add mushrooms, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

2. In a small saucepan, melt rest of the butter. Gradually add flour, whisking until smooth. Add milk and bring to a boil, then immediately reduce heat and continue whisking until mixture thickens a bit, 2 to 3 minutes. Add to soup.

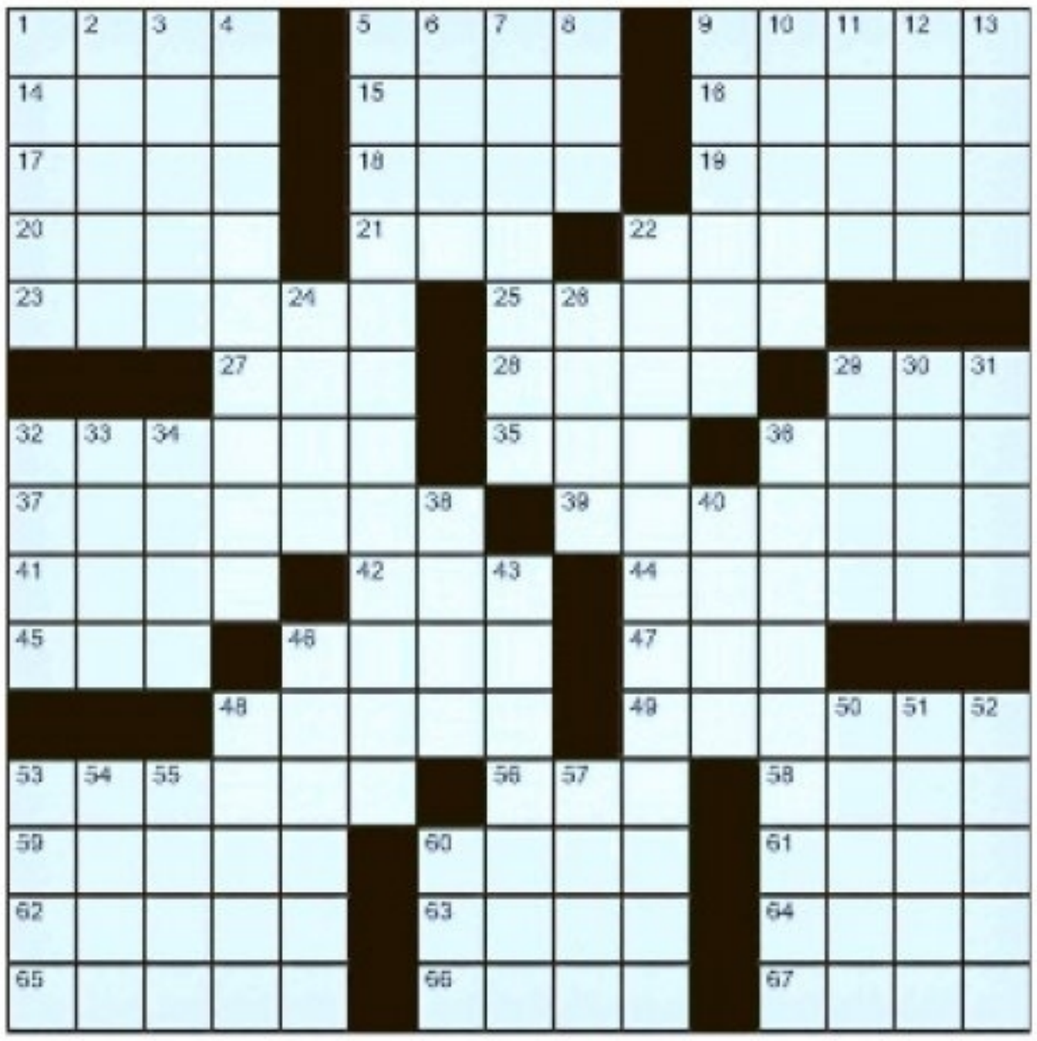
3. Stir in remaining stock. Season with salt and pepper. Remove pot from heat and, using an immersion blender, blend soup until desired consistency.

4 Ladle into bowls and serve with a helping of grated cheddar, dollop of sour cream or Greek yogurt.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Marvel Comics supervillain, _ the Conqueror
5. Santa's gifts carrier
9. Sir Newton
14. Roman love god
15. Moisturizer ingredient
16. Figure out
17. Appraise
18. 'W' in WSJ
19. Muggy
20. Avoir's cohort
21. Richie, to Joanie
22. Grate
23. Austria's capital
25. Pastes
27. Driver's _.
28. Chemist's table salt
29. Stephen of "The Crying Game" (1992)
32. Hard blow sound
35. Cheers _, 1895
36. Twenty = Two _
37. Stovetop parts
39. 'Knee' and 'knot' both begin with one, _ _
41. Ripened
42. Mr. Pacino's
44. NHL team in Edmonton
45. Mr. Howard
46. Pesky fly
47. Compass dir.
48. 1999 flick in which Alanis Morissette plays God
49. Big name in fine art in Canada (Where the masterpiece at #50-Down went to the highest bidder)
53. _ lights (Hollywood premiere illuminators)
56. One plus One's answer
58. Scottish singer Donovan's actress daughter Ms. Skye
59. On _ _ (Winning)
60. Boyfriend
61. _, _ Hubbard (Scientology founder)
62. Novel's name
63. "_ fair in love..."
64. Gladiator's 2051
65. Discharge
66. Actor, Dick Van _
67. Slitherer's noises

DOWN
1. Alex _ ("Grey's Anatomy" character)
2. Violin-making family
3. _-Dame Cathedral, in Paris
4. Where Nuuk is the capital city
5. #9-Down is part of the what in the Canadian Rockies in Alberta?: 2 wds.
6. Wing-like
7. Fellow's fragrance
8. Ms. Ripa, to pals
9. Mount _ (Peak depicted in the circa 1926 oil on canvas at #50-Down)
10. Turns, as milk
11. _ mater
12. Keen
13. Relinquish control
22. Firm such as #49-Across: 2 wds.
24. Kind
26. Glasgow gal
29. Mr. Auberjonois
30. _'acte (Intermission)
31. Inquires
32. Ski lift
33. Men's label, _ Boss
34. Songbird variety
36. Made-for-TV movies
38. Hip poetry show
40. Extra's delivery on set
43. Distinguished
46. Medieval 'mug'
48. Barbie and Ken
50. As per #49-Across... Mountain _ (Group of Seven artist Lawren Harris' painting which recently sold for a record-breaking $11.21 million)
51. Organic compounds
52. German filmmaker Ms. Riefenstahl's
53. Fill, as hunger
54. Li'l math course
55. Automatic
57. Stroll
60. U2 song

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today your focus is on home and family. If you get a chance, you will prefer to cocoon at home and hide from the busy world out there.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You have a need to communicate with others today, which is why it's a good day to talk to siblings, relatives and neighbors. It's time to plug in to the local gossip scene.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If shopping today, you will be more emotional than usual about what you choose to buy. Yes, this could lead to retail therapy.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, which will make you more emotional than usual about practically anything. However, it also improves your luck.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Work alone or behind the scenes today, because that will make you feel better. You want to pull in and hide somewhat. Take a breather from your busy social life.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A conversation with a female acquaintance might be meaningful today. In fact, this conversation might actually prompt you to modify or change your future goals.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Personal details about your private life may become public today. Be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Take a trip or do something different today, because you need a change of scenery. At least change your daily routine. Visit an exotic restaurant.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
) Today you might want to take care of loose details about inheritances and shared property, because that would be appropriate. (But you won't want to let go of something.)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others, because the Moon is opposite your sign today. This simply requires a little tolerance and compromise.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Make an extra effort today to do something to help you feel better organized. Put your papers in neat little piles; clean out the backseat of your car. Do something.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a playful, flirtatious and prankish day! Enjoy fun times with others, especially younger people. You might extend an invitation to a social event to a boss.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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	6			9			3	
2		5	7			9		
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	1						4	
3		7						
		1			7	6		8
	8			6			5	
		9			5			

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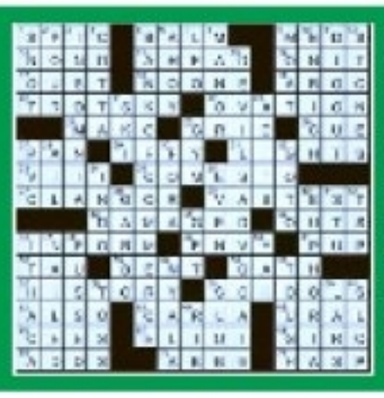
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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7	8	5	2	4	6	9	1	3
3	6	1	8	9	5	2	7	4
6	4	7	1	8	2	5	3	9
2	1	3	5	6	9	8	4	7
8	5	9	3	7	4	1	6	2

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